

### In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing coke for metallurgy by comprising blending a plurality ~~brands~~ of raw coals to form a coal blend and carbonizing ~~it~~ the coal blend in a coke oven, ~~characterized in that a~~ wherein the coal blend ~~containing not less than 60 wt% of medium coking coal having a content of inert component of not less than 30%, a middle coalification degree and a low fluidity~~ consists of 60~95 wt% of medium coking coal having a content of inert component of not less than 30%, a middle coalification degree and low fluidity, and 5~40 wt% of a high coalification hard coking coal and/or a high coalification medium coking coal having a coalification degree higher than that of the middle coalification degree and low fluidity medium coking coal is used as a coal charged into the coke oven.

2. (Original) A method of producing coke for metallurgy according to claim 1, wherein the medium coking coal of middle coalification degree and low fluidity has a equilibrium moisture content of not less than 3.5%.

3. (Original) A method of producing coke for metallurgy according to claim 1 or 2, wherein one or more coals having an mean reflectance ( $R_0$ ) as a coalification degree of 0.9~1.1 and a maximum fluidity (MF) as a coking property of not less than 3.0 are used as the medium coking coal of middle coalification degree and low fluidity.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method of producing coke for metallurgy ~~according to claim 1~~ comprising blending a plurality of raw coals to form a coal blend and carbonizing the coal blend in a coke oven, wherein the coal blend consists of 60~95 wt% of ~~the~~ medium coking coal having ~~the~~ a content of inert component of not less than 30%, a middle coalification degree and low fluidity, and 5~40 wt% of a middle-high fluidity hard coking coal and/or a middle-high

fluidity medium coking coal having a maximum fluidity MF larger ~~than~~ than that of the ~~above~~  
medium coalification medium coking coal.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of producing coke for metallurgy according to claim ~~[[4]]~~1, wherein the high coalification hard coking coal and medium coking coal are coals having an mean reflectance ( $R_0$ ) as the coalification degree of not less than 1.3.

7. (Original) A method of producing coke for metallurgy according to claim 5, wherein the middle-high fluidity coking coal and medium coking coal are coals having a maximum fluidity (MF) of not less than 3.0.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of producing coke for metallurgy according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1–7, wherein the coke as a product has a tumbler strength ( $TI_6$ ) as a strength of not less than 83%.

**In the Drawings**

Please substitute the enclosed Figs. 1 and 2 for those now on record.